

1 THOMAS P. BEKO, ESQ. (SBN 01250)
ERICKSON, THORPE & SWAINSTON, LTD.
2 99 W. Arroyo Street
Post Office Box 3559
3 Reno, NV 89505
Ph: (775) 786-3930; Fax: (775) 786-4160
4 *Attorneys for Claimants Pamela D. Longoni,*
Lacey Longoni and Jean M. Gagnon
5

6 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
7 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
8

9 In re: Case No. 12-12020 (MG)
10 RESIDENTIAL CAPITAL, LLC, et al., Chapter 11
11 Debtors. Jointly Administered
12 _____/

13 **RESPONSE TO OBJECTION OF THE RESCAP BORROWER CLAIMS TRUST**
14 **TO PROOF OF CLAIM FILED BY PAMELA D. LONGONI AND JEAN GAGNON**
CLAIM NOS. 2291, 2294, 2295 AND 2357

15 COME NOW, PAMELA D. LONGONI, individually and as the Guardian Ad Litem for
16 LACEY LONGONI, and JEAN M. GAGNON, by and through their attorneys, ERICKSON,
17 THORPE & SWAINSTON, LTD., and Thomas P. Beko, Esq., and hereby submit the following
18 response to the Objection to the Proof of Claims filed by Pamela D. Longoni and Jean Gagnon.

19 DATED this 22nd day of May, 2015.

20 ERICKSON, THORPE & SWAINSTON, LTD.
21

22 By /s/ Thomas P. Beko
THOMAS P. BEKO, ESQ.
23 *Attorneys for Claimants*
24 *Pamela D. Longoni, Lacey Longoni*
and Jean M. Gagnon
25
26
27
28

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	ii
Table of Authorities	iv
I. Summary of the Claims and the Debtors' Objection	1
A. The Plaintiffs' Claims	3
B. The Debtors' Objection	4
C. Procedural Authority	4
II. The Debtors Have Failed to Establish That They Had Any Legal Right to Commence a Non-Judicial Foreclosure Upon the Plaintiffs' Property. Therefore, They Cannot Negate an Essential Allegation of Any of the Claimants' Claims	5
III. The Debtors Failed to Comply with Nevada's Statutory Requirements for Non-Judicial. For These Additional Reasons, the Foreclosure was Unlawful	8
A. Because GMACM accepted further payments from the plaintiffs after the foreclosure process was stopped, they were thereafter required to restart the process which would have necessarily occurred after July 1, 2009, making Nevada's Mandatory Foreclosure Mediation process applicable	10
IV. The Plaintiffs' Fraud, Misrepresentation and Promissory Estoppel Claims are Entirely Valid as there is Irrefutable Evidence that Multiple GMACM Representatives Informed the Claimants That GMACM's Proposed Loan Modifications Were, in Fact, Fully Approved. The Evidence Is Also Irrefutable That GMACM Repeatedly Informed Longoni That All Foreclosure Actions Were on Hold	11
V. The Claimants' Breach of Contract and Fraud and Misrepresentation Claims are Valid	22
VI. The Claimants' Fraud and Misrepresentation Claims Are Valid	24
A. Negligent misrepresentation is also properly stated	25
B. Even assuming a "no duty" rule applicable to lenders, an exception to such "no duty" rule is stated by the complaint's averment	26
C. A claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress is also stated	27
VII. The Plaintiffs' Breach of Contract and Promissory Estoppel Claims Are Entirely Valid	27
A. The claimants' Promissory Estoppel Claim is also fully established by the record in this matter	29

1	VIII. Longoni's Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Claim has Already	
2	Been Determined to be Valid	30

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

<u>Adelson v. Hananel</u>	27
2009 WL 2835119, *3 (D. Nev.)	
<u>Anderson v. Baltrusaitis</u>	24
113 Nev. 963, 965, 944 P.2d 797, 799 (1997)	
<u>Barmettler v. Reno Air, Inc.</u>	25
114 Nev. 441, 449, 956 P.2d. 1382, 1387 (1998), quoting Rest. 2d of Torts, § 552(1)(1976)	
<u>Betsinger v. D.R. Horton, Inc.</u>	27
232 P.3d at 436	
<u>Bronner v. Park Place Entm't Corp.</u>	28
137 F. Supp. 2d 306, 312 (S.D.N.Y.2001)	
<u>Cervantes v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.</u>	5
656 F. 3d 1034, 1039, (9 th Cir. 2011)	
<u>Collins v. Union Federal Sav. & Loan Ass'n</u>	25
99 Nev. 284, 304, 662 P.2d 610, 623 (1983)	
<u>Dynalectric Co. V. Clark & Sullivan Constructors, Inc.</u>	29
127 Nev. Adv. Op. No. 41, 255 P. 3d 286, 288 (2011), quoting Restatement (Second) of Contracts, sec. 90(1)(1981)	
<u>Edelstein v. Bank of New York Mellon</u>	5, 6, 9
128 Nev. Adv. Op. 48, 286 P.3d 249, *7, 254, (Sept. 27, 2012)	
<u>Fidelity Mortgage Trustee Service, Inc. v. Ridgeway East Homeowners Assoc.</u>	26
27 Cal. App. 4 th 503, 506, 32 Cal. Rptr. 2d. 521, 523 (1994)	
<u>Franchise Tax Board v. Hyatt</u>	30
130 Nev. Adv. Op. 71, 335 P.3d 125 (2014)	
<u>Ghervescu v. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Co.</u>	25
2008 WL 660248, **1-3, 6 (Cal. App. 4 th) (unpublished)	
<u>Gordon v. Beck & Gregg Hardware Co.</u>	28
40 S.E.2d 428, 432 (Ga. App. 1946)	
<u>Gunsul v. Countywide Home Loans, Inc.</u>	25
2006 WL 3586091, **2-6 (Wash.App.)	
<u>In re: Metex Mfg. Corp.</u>	4
510 B.R. 735, 740 (Bankr.S.D.N.Y. June 13, 2014)	
<u>In re Residential Capital, LLC</u>	4
2014 WL 1414136, *5 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. April 10, 2014)	
<u>In re Residential Capital, LLC</u>	5
524 B.R. 465 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015)	

1	<u>Lenett v. World Sav. Bank, FSB</u>	
2	2008 WL 2009757, *2 (Cal. App. 2d)	25
3	<u>Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp.</u>	
4	127 Nev. Op. 40, 255 P.3d 1275, 1279 (2011)	5
5	<u>Longoni v. GMAC Mortg.</u>	
6	2010 WL 5186091, at *4, *6	23, 30
7	<u>Nieto v. Litton Loan Servicing LP</u>	
8	2011 WL 797496, * 3 (D. Nev. Feb. 23, 2011)	29
9	<u>Pasillas v. HSBC Bank USA</u>	
10	127 Nev. Adv. Op. 39, 255 P.3d 1281 (2011)	9
11	<u>Pinnacle Fitness and Recreation Management v. Jerry and</u>	
12	<u>Vickie Moyes Family Trust</u> , 2013 WL 1932888	28
13	<u>Sattari v. Wash. Mut.</u>	
14	2010 WL 3896146, *4 (D. Nev.)	27
15	<u>Simon v. B of A</u> , 2010 WL 2609436, *12 (D.Nev.)	
16	citing, <u>Betsinger v. D.R. Horton, Inc.</u>	
17	126 Nev. 17, 232 P.3d 43, 436 (2010)	27
18	<u>T & Beer, Inc., v. Wine Source Selections, LLC</u>	
19	2012 WL 360286, *3 (N.J.Super. A.D. (Unpublished opinion)	28
20	<u>Tene v. BAC Home Loan Servicing, LP</u>	
21	2012 WL 222920, *2 (D. Nev. Jan. 25, 2012)	27
22	<u>Weingartner v. Chase Home Finance, LLC</u>	
23	702 F. Supp. 2d 1276, 1290, 1291 (D.Nev 2010)	24, 25
24	<u>Wiseman v. Hallham</u>	
25	113 Nev. 1266, 1270, 945 P.2d. 945, 947-48 (1997)	26
26		
27	<u>Statutes/Rules</u>	
28	11 U.S.C. 502(a)	4
	Nevada Revised Statute §11.220	27, 28
	Nevada Revised Statute §107.080	9
	Nevada Revised Statute §107.085	9, 10
	Nevada Revised Statute §107.086	9
	Nevada Revised Statute §107.087	9
	Nevada Revised Statute §107.090	9
	Nevada Revised Statute 107.080 through 107.100	24

1	Nevada Revised Statute §111.220	27
2	Nevada Revised Statute §719.100	28
3	Nevada Revised Statute §719.240	28
4	Restatement (Second) of Contracts §90	29
5	Restatement (Second) of Torts § 323	26

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**RESPONSE TO OBJECTION OF THE RESCAP BORROWER CLAIMS TRUST TO
PROOF OF CLAIMS FILED BY PAMELA D. LONGONI AND JEAN GAGNON
CLAIM NOS. 2291, 2294, 2295 AND 2357**

1. The Claimants, Pamela D. Longoni and Jean Gagnon, hereby submit the following Response to the Objection to their Claims filed by debtors GMAC Mortgage, LLC (“GMACM”), and Executive Trustee Service, LLC (“ETS”) on April 24, 2015.¹ For the reasons set forth herein, the debtors’ Objection should be denied in its entirety.

2. First, and foremost, the debtors cannot defeat the plaintiffs’ claims because they cannot prove, under Nevada law, that they had *any* legal right to commence any foreclosure proceedings upon plaintiffs’ home. Second, the justification which is now being proffered by the debtors for commencing the foreclosure is entirely false and fabricated. Proof of this fact will be demonstrated herein through a recently obtained declaration of the actual former GMACM employee who was responsible for handling the plaintiffs’ request for a permanent loan modification. Finally, the plaintiffs will prove, through wholly undisputed evidence, that (1) they were promised that all attempts at foreclosure were on hold while they continued to pursue a permanent loan modification, and (2) that GMACM had actually approved their requested loan modification.

I. Summary of the Claims and the Debtors’ Objection.

3. In a nutshell, this case is a prime example of a foreclosure sale which occurred when the right hand did not knowing what the left hand was doing. In this case, on August 14, 2009, Executive Trustee Services, LLC (“ETS”) caused the sale of the plaintiffs’ 14-year home in Reno, Nevada. They did so purportedly at the direction of GMAC Mortgage, LLC (“GMACM”). It is the plaintiffs’ position that ETS conducted the foreclosure sale not knowing that GMACM had placed the foreclosure on hold while they sought to change the plaintiffs’ previously approved loan modification plan from a “Traditional” GMACM loan modification to a newly implemented “Obama Plan” (also known as “HAMP”) modification. And, as soon as GMACM discovered that ETS had sold the plaintiffs’ home, GMACM’s counsel contacted the plaintiff Longoni and admitted their error. Thereafter, GMACM attempted to recover the plaintiffs’ home back from the third party

¹ The claimant Pamela D. Longoni asserted claims on behalf of her minor daughter, Lacey Longoni, as well. Thus, all arguments set forth herein also apply to her.

1 purchaser. However, the new purchaser refused to return to the home (because GMACM offered
2 them only \$4,000.00 to unwind that sale). GMACM then took steps to mitigate the plaintiffs'
3 damages, but refused to complete even that process when the plaintiffs refused to provide them a full
4 release. This litigation ensued.

5 4. As will be demonstrated herein, in an effort to convince this Court to dismiss the
6 plaintiffs' bankruptcy claims, the debtors have proffered an entirely *ex post facto* justification for the
7 foreclosure, namely that the plaintiffs had breached a repayment plan (the "Repayment Agreement")
8 that they entered into with GMACM. In this regard, the debtors now argue that the plaintiffs entered
9 into a Repayment Plan with GMACM requiring them to make three temporary payments of
10 \$1,600.00 which were to be followed by a balloon payment, specified only in an amount "in excess
11 of \$19,000.00." The debtors claim that because the plaintiffs failed to make this required balloon
12 payment, GMACM was authorized to complete the previously commenced foreclosure proceeding.

13 5. To support this claimed defense, the debtors have not provided this Court with a
14 single affidavit from any witness who would testify that GMACM completed the foreclosure *because*
15 the plaintiffs breached this Repayment Agreement. Instead, the debtors' defense is supported
16 entirely upon their counsel's interpretation of obscure GMACM diary notes. As will be shown
17 herein, their interpretation is entirely incorrect.

18 6. As is reflected in the Declaration of GMACM's own Loss Mitigation Specialist (Mr.
19 Jonathan "Nate" Stephenson), although he had initially proposed a Repayment Agreement (which
20 had been sent to the plaintiffs), he immediately abandoned that plan when it became obvious that
21 the plaintiffs would never be able to meet its requirements. *See, Declaration of Jonathan "Nate"*
22 *Stephenson, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, ¶¶ 4-9.* He thereafter embarked upon the process to
23 qualify the plaintiffs for a permanent loan modification. That process began with the plaintiffs
24 making temporary payments in the amount of \$1,600.00. During this time period GMACM placed
25 all foreclosure activities on hold while they evaluated the plaintiffs' request. According to Mr.
26 Stephenson, there never was a Repayment Agreement, and because there was no such plan there was
27 no required balloon payment. And because there was no balloon payment, the plaintiffs were, at all
28 times, in full compliance with all requirements GMACM had imposed upon them as part of their

1 application for a permanent loan. Thus, according to Mr. Stephenson, the plaintiffs were never in
2 breach of any obligation imposed by GMACM. *Id. at ¶¶ 6, 10.*

3 7. In addition to this Declaration (which completely refutes the arguments now being
4 proffered by the debtors' current counsel), the plaintiffs have also attached a previously obtained
5 Affidavit from Mr. Stephenson wherein he provided that he actually received an email which
6 indicated that the plaintiffs' request for a permanent loan modification had, in fact, been approved
7 by GMACM's higher management. *See, Affidavit of Jonathan "Nate" Stephenson, also attached*
8 *hereto as Exhibit 1.* Thus, the plaintiffs have evidence directly from GMACM's own agent which
9 completely obliterates every argument proffered by the debtors in their current Objection. In light
10 of this evidence, this Court should summarily reject all of the debtors' arguments which are not
11 based upon actual evidence, but rather, strained extrapolations from vague log notes.²

12 **A. The Plaintiffs' Claims.**

13 8. As the debtors have aptly noted, the claims of Pamela Longoni and Jean Gagnon arise
14 as a result of the sale of their home following a nonjudicial foreclosure that the claimants allege was
15 wrongfully undertaken by the debtors GMACM and ETS. That foreclosure process began in
16 February of 2009, and resulted in the sale of the claimants' home on August 14, 2009. The claimants
17 brought suit alleging various claims based upon the substantive law of the State of Nevada.
18 Generally speaking, the plaintiffs have asserted three claims.

19 9. First, the plaintiffs alleged that the foreclosure caused by GMACM and conducted
20 by ETS was unlawful under Nevada law because neither GMACM nor ETS had the legal rights to
21 both the plaintiffs' promissory note and their deed of trust. Because Nevada law explicitly requires
22 that the foreclosing party possess both of these legal instruments, and because neither GMACM nor
23

24 ² The debtors' Objection is filled with such unsupported arguments. Some of the most
25 outlandish are the claims of a breach of an obligation to make a \$19,000+ balloon payment,
26 claims that the plaintiffs did not make timely temporary payments, claims of repeated telephone
27 calls to the plaintiffs demanding they provide further documentation to GMACM as part of their
28 request for a loan modification, and claims the plaintiffs failed to return requested documentation
when GMACM sought to qualify them under the HAMP program. The plaintiffs submit that the
debtors are forced to rely upon such unsupported (and inadmissible) evidence, because they do
not have a single witness who could proffer testimony to support their arguments. This Court
should summarily reject any argument not supported by competent, admissible evidence.

1 ETS were possessed of those rights, the foreclosure was unlawful *ab initio*. Therefore, regardless of
2 whether ETS followed Nevada's statutory rules on foreclosure, the foreclosure was still unlawful.

3 10. Next, the claimants alleged that when ETS conducted the foreclosure, they violated
4 various provisions of Nevada statutory law, including provisions which required (1) a specific type
5 of notice be personally served upon the plaintiffs, and (2) the debtors to participate in a mandatory
6 mediation program before proceeding forward with the foreclosure. Because the debtors failed to
7 comply with these statutory requirements, the foreclosure was again unlawful. Finally, the claimants
8 alleged that they quite reasonably relied, to their great detriment, upon the representations made by
9 GMACM's representatives Stephenson and Casas, that all foreclosure efforts were on hold while the
10 plaintiffs pursued a permanent loan modification.

11 **B. The Debtor's Objection.**

12 11. In their current Objection the debtors assert four basic arguments. First, they argue
13 that regardless of anything that GMACM's representatives may have said or done during the loan
14 mitigation process, the foreclosure was proper since the claimants had breached both their original
15 loan agreement as well as the "Repayment Agreement." Second, they assert that they complied with
16 all the *then-applicable* non-judicial foreclosure statutes which existed in the State of Nevada. Third,
17 the debtors argue that the plaintiffs could not legally rely upon Nate Stephenson's written
18 representations (that their request for a permanent loan modification was approved or that the
19 foreclosure process was on hold) because the representations were too vague or because Mr.
20 Stephenson no longer had any authority to speak on behalf of GMACM (as he had been assigned to
21 a new team at the time). Finally, the debtors claim that Nevada's Statute of Frauds renders any
22 promises made by the debtors unenforceable.

23 **C. Procedural Authority.**

24 12. "Courts in the Second Circuit apply a burden shifting framework for claims
25 objections." *In re: Metex Mfg. Corp.*, 510 B.R. 735, 740 (Bankr.S.D.N.Y. June 13, 2014). Under
26 this shifting burden analysis, a properly filed claim is deemed allowed unless a party in interest
27 objects. 11 U.S.C. 502(a). *In re Residential Capital, LLC*, 2014 WL 1414136, *5 (Bankr.
28 S.D.N.Y. April 10, 2014). However, if the objector does *not* introduce evidence as to the invalidity

1 of the claim, the claimant need offer no further proof on the merits of the claim. *In re Residential*
2 *Capital, LLC.*, 524 B.R. 465 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015). As noted above, in this case the objectors
3 have failed to establish a fundamental predicate to their right to engage in *any* foreclosure activity.
4 Because the debtors cannot make this predicate showing, the burden should never shift to the
5 claimants to prove the validity of their claims (or show that the debtors' objections are not
6 sustainable). However, in this Response, the claimants will prove both.

7 **II. The Debtors Have Failed to Establish That They Had Any Legal Right to**
8 **Commence a Non-judicial Foreclosure Upon the Plaintiffs' Property. Therefore,**
9 **They Cannot Negate an Essential Allegation of Any of the Claimants' Claims.**

10 13. To justify the relief requested, the debtors must necessarily prove to this Court that
11 the foreclosure upon the plaintiffs' home was lawful. In this case, the debtors cannot. Under Nevada
12 law, it is clear that before any party can lawfully commence a non-judicial foreclosure, that party
13 must possess the legal rights to both the promissory note and the deed of trust. In *Edelstein v. Bank*
14 *of New York Mellon*, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 48, 286 P.3d 249 (Sept. 27, 2012), the Nevada Supreme
15 made it clear that when MERS is designated as the original beneficiary on a deed of trust (which,
16 of course, they were in this case, *see, Exhibit 2*), the note and deed of trust are split making
17 nonjudicial foreclosure by either party improper. *Id. at *7*. In reaching this decision, the Nevada
18 Court found that such a division was not irreparable, however, the Court concluded that before a
19 lawful nonjudicial foreclosure could be commenced, the promissory note and deed of trust had to
20 be reunited in the same party.

21 14. Relying on the frequently cited decision of *Cervantes v. Countrywide Home Loans,*
22 *Inc.*, 656 F. 3d 1034, 1039 (9th Cir. 2011), the Nevada Supreme Court explained that "[t]he deed and
23 note must be held together because the holder of the note is only entitled to repayment, and does not
24 have the right under the deed to use the property as a means of satisfying repayment." *Edelstein*, 286
25 P.3d at 254. "Conversely, the holder of the deed alone does not have a right to repayment and, thus,
26 does not have an interest in foreclosing on the property to satisfy repayment." *Id. See, also, Leyva*
27 *v. National Default Servicing Corp.*, 127 Nev. Adv. Op. 40, 255 P.3d 1275, 1279 (2011)
28 (recognizing note and deed of trust must be held by same person to foreclose). In this case, the
debtors have never proven that either GMACM or ETS possessed the rights to both the promissory

1 note and the deed of trust. Because of this fact, the foreclosure was unlawful.

2 15. As the debtors noted, there were multiple amendments to the plaintiffs' original
3 complaint. These amendments became necessary because the defendants could never identify who
4 owned or held the note or the deed of trust. The plaintiffs will review the evidence surrounding this
5 issue, but before they do it is important for this Court to first review the debtors' Objection to see
6 how they attempted to cause this Court to quickly skip over this critical fundamental prerequisite.
7 In two paragraphs, the debtors provide an intentionally vague history of the loan in an effort to
8 convince this Court that they somehow had standing to pursue foreclosure upon the plaintiffs' home.
9 First, in paragraph 7, they properly note that on September 29, 2005, Longoni executed a promissory
10 note and deed of trust on certain real property located at 5540 Twin Creeks Drive, Reno, Nevada (the
11 "Property"). *See, attached Exhibit 2.*³ Debtors declare that this deed of trust was "in favor" of
12 Equifirst Corporation. However, as the Court can see, while the Lender on the promissory note is
13 identified as EquiFirst Corporation, the beneficiary of the deed of trust is not Equifirst Corporation,
14 but rather, it is Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. ("MERS"). *See, Deed of Trust p. 2.*
15 Under the Nevada law set forth above, by naming MERS as the beneficiary, there was an immediate
16 separation of the promissory note away from the deed of trust. *See, Edelstein v. Bank of New York*
17 *Mellon*, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 48, 286 P.3d 249 (Sept. 27, 2012). Under Nevada law, unless those two
18 legal instruments were later reunited in the same party, no party could lawfully pursue foreclosure.

19 16. Next, debtors claim that in December of 2005, the "loan" was placed into a
20 securitized trust under which Residential Funding Corporation acted as the master servicer.⁴ They
21 then claim that Homecomings Financial LLC, and later, GMACM, acted as the sub-servicer on the
22 loan from 2005 to 2013. They of course offer absolutely no evidence to support any of these legal
23 conclusions. From here, the debtors argue that Longoni defaulted on this "modified" loan in
24 December of 2008, and as a result GMACM declared the loan in default and sent a notice of default

25
26 ³The promissory note and deed of trust were also signed by the plaintiff Gagnon.

27 ⁴ The use of the word "loan" was not just sloppy lawyering, it was an intentional
28 misnomer designed to obfuscate the fact that the promissory note and the deed of trust had been
severed from one another.

1 on January 2, 2009. They claim that Longoni failed to cure the default, so on February 26, 2009,
2 ETS formally recorded a Notice of Breach and Default. They claim that ETS sent notice of this
3 filing to the plaintiffs on March 4, 2009.⁵

4 17. Again, the debtors failed to explain what they meant by the word “modified” loan.
5 What they intentionally kept from this Court was the fact that on November 15, **2007**, Homecomings
6 Financial, LLC entered into a previous loan modification agreement with the plaintiffs. *See, attached*
7 *Exhibit 3, Adjustable Rate Loan Modification Agreement*. Contrary to the debtors’ current assertion,
8 Homecomings Financial, LLC was not identified in that agreement as a “sub servicer” of the loan,
9 but rather, Homecomings Financial, LLC was specifically identified as the “Lender.” **More**
10 **importantly, the Adjustable Rate Loan Modification Agreement specifically provided that the**
11 **“Lender” [Homecomings Financial, LLC] was the “legal holder and the owner of the Note and**
12 **Security Instrument . . .”**

13 18. After GMACM and ETS finally filed an Answer in the underlying litigation, the
14 plaintiffs served them with their first set of interrogatories which asked the defendants to identify
15 each individual or entity that has or has had, or who has claimed to have had, possession and/or an
16 ownership interest in the Note and Deed of Trust. *See, attached Exhibit 4*. On December 2, 2010,
17 GMACM provided the following response:

18 **Response No. 1:**

19 9/29/05	Equifirst Corp	Origination
10/17/05	Loan registered with MERS	Loan originated with MERS as nominee
20 1/05/06	Residential Funding Co, LLC as Trustees	Transfer of beneficial rights from EC
10/08/06	Residential Funding Co, LLC	Transfer of servicing rights from EC

21
22 Quite notably, Homecomings Financial LLC is never identified as either a holder or owner of the
23 Note and/or the Deed of Trust. Moreover, there is no mention whatsoever of some “securitized
24 trust” or any master or sub-servicer of the loan. Nevertheless, based upon this rather evasive
25 response, the undersigned sought leave to amend the complaint to add claims against Residential
26 Funding. The Court granted the motion and Residential Funding was then added as a defendant.

27
28 ⁵ As will be shown below, this Notice came back to ETS as “undeliverable.”

1 19. On July 29, 2011, the parties appeared before the United States Magistrate Judge on
2 an unrelated matter. During the course of that hearing, the debtors' counsel informed the court that
3 he had received information from his clients that the owner of the Note was not Residential Funding,
4 but rather it was owned by a company called Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc. *See, Minute*
5 *Order, Doc. #80, Exhibit 5.* Shortly thereafter on August 5, 2011, GMACM served the plaintiffs
6 with its Amended Response to Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories. *See, Response to Interrogatory*
7 *1, attached Exhibit 6.* In these responses, GMACM gave a completely different response. This time
8 they stated that Residential Funding Corporation, LLC ("RFC") purchased the Loan from Equifirst
9 in November, 2005, but pursuant to an subsequent Pooling and Servicing Agreement which
10 transferred ownership of the loans from RFC to Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc.

11 20. Again, there was no reference to Homecomings Financial, LLC, who was identified
12 in the November 15, 2007, Adjustable Rate Loan Modification Agreement as both the holder *and*
13 owner of the Note and the deed of trust. That agreement was executed almost two years *after* the
14 debtors claimed that the Residential Funding Corporation, LLC purchased the "Loan" from EquiFirst
15 Corporation and transferred it into the securitized trust. Nevertheless, because of this amended
16 discovery response, the plaintiffs again amended their complaint to add these entities.

17 21. The undersigned then took the depositions of the individuals identified as the Persons
18 Most Knowledgeable ("PMK") for GMACM and ETS. GMACM identified Mr. Juan Aguirre as its
19 PMK.⁶ ETS identified Mr. Myron Ravelo as its PMK. Neither could identify who actually owned
20 the plaintiffs' promissory note or deed of trust at the time of the foreclosure. *See, Aguirre*
21 *Deposition, Exhibit 7, at pp. 62-66, 72-73, 87, 103-105. See, also, Ravelo Deposition, Exhibit 8, pp.*
22 *21-22, 62-63, 83-85.* Under Nevada law, as the foreclosing party, ETS was legally required to
23 possess both the promissory note and deed of trust. Clearly, they did not.

24 **III. The Debtors Failed to Comply with Nevada's Statutory Requirements for Non-**
25 **Judicial Foreclosures. For these Additional Reasons, the Foreclosure was Unlawful.**

26 22. Even if the debtors had legal standing to pursue foreclosure proceedings against the

27 ⁶ The individual identified as the Person Most Knowledgeable for GMACM also claimed
28 that he was the PMK for Residential Funding Corporation. *Exhibit 7 at p. 8.*

1 plaintiffs' home, the foreclosure would still be unlawful because the debtors failed to comply with
2 Nevada's non-judicial foreclosure statutes. The only defense offered by the debtors against these
3 claims was that said statutes were not applicable because the charged statutes did not become
4 applicable until July 1, 2009, long after the Notice of Default was filed in February, 2009.

5 23. The plaintiffs' first claims for relief were founded upon the defendants' alleged failure
6 to comply with certain provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes, namely sections 107.080, 107.085,
7 107.086, 107.087 and 107.090. In 2009, Nevada adopted what is known as its mandatory
8 Foreclosure Mediation Program. The essential terms of this program were codified through
9 amendments to certain sections of the Nevada Revised Statutes, primarily NRS §107.080, §107.085,
10 and §107.090. More significantly, Nevada added two key statutes which related primarily to the
11 foreclosure mediation program, namely NRS §107.086 and §107.087. Pursuant to these statutes, to
12 lawfully commence a foreclosure action, the trustee was first required to obtain a certification
13 establishing that it he/she had participated in the program in good faith. *See, Edelstein v. Bank of*
14 *New York Mellon*, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 48, 286 P.3d 249 (Sept. 27, 2012), *see also, Pasillas v. HSBC*
15 *Bank USA*, 127 Nev. Adv. Op. 39, 255 P.3d 1281 (2011).

16 24. The debtors' argument that these statutes did not apply fails for two reasons. First,
17 certain parts of N.R.S. §107.085 (which required personal service of a specialized notice to owner-
18 occupied property) were in effect since 2003, and the debtors completely failed to comply with those
19 provisions. Second, as was readily acknowledged by ETS's PMK, because GMACM engaged in a
20 loan modification plan pursuant to which it accepted further payments from the plaintiffs, ETS was
21 thereafter obligated to restart that foreclosure process. Had ETS done so that process would have
22 started after July 1, 2009, and the new statutes would have applied.

23 25. Contrary to the debtors' arguments, NRS §107.085, had been in full force and effect
24 since 2003.⁷ Under this statutory section, no later than 60 days before the date of the sale (in this
25 case June 14, 2009) the debtors were required to personally serve the plaintiffs with a notice (**along**
26 **with a copy of the promissory note**) which contained very detailed information. *See, Exhibit 10.*

27 ⁷ For the convenience of this Court the claimants have attached a copy of the pre-2009
28 version of NRS §107.085. *See, attached Exhibit 10.*

1 Because the debtors failed to comply with this statute, the foreclosure action was entirely unlawful.
2 In addition, pursuant to NRS §107.080(4)(a) (which had also been in effect for several years before
3 2009), the debtors were also obligated to provide the claimants with notice of the proposed trustee's
4 sale either by certified or registered mail. In this case, the debtors claim that on July 23, 2009, they
5 filed a Notice of Trustee sale in Washoe County and posted a copy in three public places. *See,*
6 *Objection ¶ 16.* They further claim that they published the notice in the Sparks Tribune (a city sister
7 to Reno, Nevada). *Id.* However, the debtors made no showing that such notice was served upon the
8 plaintiffs by registered or certified mail.⁸ For these reasons, the foreclosure was also unlawful.

9 **A. Because GMACM accepted further payments from the plaintiffs after the**
10 **foreclosure process was stopped, they were thereafter required to restart the process which**
11 **would have necessarily occurred after July 1, 2009, making Nevada's Mandatory Foreclosure**
12 **Mediation process applicable.**

13 26. It is undisputed that in March of 2009, GMACM began working with the claimants
14 on a loan modification program. It is also undisputed that as part of that process, the claimants
15 made, and GMACM accepted, three separate payments of \$1,600.00. Those funds were never
16 returned to the claimants. *See, attached Affidavit of Pamela D. Longoni, ¶ 33, Exhibit 9.* In his
17 deposition, ETS's PMK admitted that once GMACM received and applied these funds to the
18 plaintiffs' loan, the default amount would change and therefore the foreclosure process should have
19 been started anew and he had no idea why that did not occur. *See, Ravelo Depo, Exhibit 8, pp. 122-*
20 *123, 127, 137. See also, Aguirre deposition, Exhibit 7, p. 140.* Had the debtors done what ETS's
21 PMK testified they should have done, the debtors would have been required to participate in
22 Nevada's mandatory Foreclosure Mediation Program.⁹ Admittedly, they did not.

23 ⁸ To support their claim of compliance with these statutory sections, the debtors did
24 nothing more than direct this Court to the generalized affidavit attached to the Trustee's Deed
25 Upon Sale wherein an ETS employee generally claims that "All requirements of Nevada
26 Statutes" (including "personal delivery") have been complied with. This declaration proves
nothing. In fact, as noted above, it is clear that the debtors did not comply with N.R.S. 107.085
by personally serving the plaintiffs with the notice (or a copy of the promissory note) as required
by that statute. It is this false declaration which formed a basis for the plaintiffs' fraud claim.
The representations are simply untrue.

27 ⁹ The debtors have attempted to avoid the implications of these facts by arguing that the
28 claim would be barred by reason of certain provisions which were contained within the
Foreclosure Repayment Agreement that Nate Stephenson originally proposed. *See, Objection, ¶*

1 **IV. The Plaintiffs' Fraud, Misrepresentation and Promissory Estoppel Claims are**
2 **Entirely Valid as there is Irrefutable Evidence that Multiple GMACM**
3 **Representatives Informed the Claimants That GMACM's Proposed Loan**
4 **Modifications Were, in Fact, Fully Approved. The Evidence Is Also Irrefutable That**
5 **GMACM Repeatedly Informed Longoni That All Foreclosure Actions Were on Hold.**

6 27. In this case, the plaintiffs allege that in response to their application for a loan
7 modification, they were told to make monthly payments of \$1,600 while GMACM considered their
8 request for a permanent modification to their loan. They admittedly made those payments, and
9 during that time they were repeatedly told that the foreclosure process was on hold. They further
10 claim that on June 30, 2012, Ms. Longoni was told by Mr. Stephenson that their request had been
11 approved. The plaintiffs will now review the truly uncontroverted evidence which supports these
12 factual allegations. This evidence consists of the Affidavit and Declaration from Loss Mitigation
13 Specialist, Nate Stephenson, the debtors' own internal log notes (or diary), GMACM's
14 correspondence, as well as email communications between Ms. Longoni and Mr. Stephenson.

15 28. The entire process began with an inquiry Ms. Longoni made when she and her
16 partner, Mr. Gagnon, suffered financial difficulties when he was transferred from Reno to Las Vegas.
17 When Ms. Longoni inquired about a modification to their existing loan, she was told that before they
18 could be considered for a loan modification, they had to be in default. Because she had received this
19 information, the plaintiffs did not make their December 2008 payment. *See, Longoni deposition,*
20 *Exhibit 23, pp. 52-54.* On or about January 15, 2009, Ms. Longoni sent a request for a loan
21 modification to Homecomings Financial as she believed that was the lender on their loan. *See,*
22 *Longoni Affidavit, ¶6, attached Exhibit 9, and letter of January 15, 2009, attached Exhibit 11.* On
23 February 18, 2009, GMACM's notes reflect that a "workout package" was sent to the claimants.
24 *See, attached Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0065.* The very next day (February 19, 2009),
25 GMACM referred the matter to ETS to commence foreclosure proceedings. *Id. See, also, Ravelo*
26 *deposition, Ex. 8, p. 63.* On March 5, 2009, GMACM received the claimants' completed financial
27 package. *See, Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0067.* And on March 10, 2009, GMACM approved
28 the matter for their loss mitigation program. *See, Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0068.* That same

11. However, the debtors fully admit that the claimants never executed this agreement. *See,*
Objection, ¶ 10. Thus, this argument is entirely specious.

1 day, GMACM instructed ETS to place all foreclosure actions on hold until directed otherwise by
2 GMACM. *See, attached Exhibit 13, bates page ETS-01-000005.*

3 29. To assist its Loss Mitigation Specialists, GMACM adopted internal guidelines which
4 they referred to as their Servicer Guide. *See, attached Exhibit 14, and Aguirre depo, pp. 158-159,*
5 *Exhibit 7.* This guide identified the various options which were available for loss mitigation
6 specialists. The options included “Temporary Indulgence,” “Repayment Plan,” “Special Forbearance
7 Relief Agreement,” “Deed-In-Lieu of Foreclosure,” “Write Offs,” “Bankruptcy” and, of course,
8 “Foreclosure.” Each had their own terms and conditions. As the Court can see, GMACM’s
9 “Repayment Plan” simply allowed a borrower to increase his/her payments over time to make up for
10 a deficiency, however, under a repayment plan, the loan would *not* be modified and there would be
11 no write off or debt forgiveness. *See, Exhibit 14, bates p. RFC-001-000300, 369.* In contrast, a
12 “Loan Modification” entailed a formal change in one or more terms of the original mortgage note.
13 Such changes could include a change to the interest rate, payment amount, maturity date, or the
14 principal balance of the loan. *See, Exhibit 14, bates p. RFC-001-000378.* Loan modifications could
15 be done under several plans such as “Traditional,” “HAMP,” “Second Lien Bulk” or “Framework
16 (Bush).” *See, Exhibit 14, bates GMAC-02-000193.* According to Mr. Aguirre, loan modifications
17 start as “trial” modifications and then they are changed to “permanent” modifications. *See, Aguirre*
18 *Deposition, pp. 185-186, Exhibit 7.* HAMP modifications (which are synonymous with “Obama”
19 modifications) came into effect in March of 2009, but GMACM did not start to use them until May
20 of 2009. *Id. at 164-165, 194.* GMACM Loan Specialists could utilize either Traditional plans or
21 HAMP plans depending upon which option worked best for the borrower. *Id. at 165.* According to
22 Aguirre, the specialist would look first to the Traditional modification, however, when the HAMP
23 program was enacted, it was used as the terms were more liberal for the borrower (i.e., reduced
24 interest rates, extended terms, etc.). *Id. at 188-189.* This is precisely what occurred in this case.

25 30. Confirming Mr. Stephenson’s Declaration that all efforts at a Repayment Agreement
26 were abandoned in lieu of a permanent loan modification, (*Exhibit 1, ¶ 3*), GMACM’s March 10,
27 2009 notes confirms that they were first going to pursue a Repayment Plan. *See, Exhibit 12, bates*
28 *page GMAC-01-00068.* This plan consisted of 3 monthly payments of \$2,270.00, followed by a

1 balloon payment of \$19,421.76 *Id.* Attached hereto as *Exhibit 15* is the *proposed* Foreclosure
2 Repayment Agreement. The addendum describes the payment schedule, including the balloon.
3 When Ms. Longoni received this proposed plan, she contacted Mr. Stephenson and informed him
4 that they could not afford the monthly payment of \$2,270.00, and they would never be able to make
5 any type of a balloon payment. *See, Longoni affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 10.* Mr. Stephenson's
6 Declaration fully confirms this fact. *Exhibit 1, ¶ 4.* In response, Mr. Stephenson concluded that a
7 Repayment Agreement was not a viable option for the plaintiffs, and as a result he made the decision
8 to forego all attempts at a repayment plan and instead he pursued a permanent loan modification.
9 *See, Stephenson Declaration, Exhibit 1, ¶ 4.* GMACM's log notes from March 19, 2009, fully
10 confirm that change. *See, Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0072.* This log note reads as follows:

11 The borrower does not have enough savings to reinstate the loan and
12 their financials do not support a repayment plan.

13 On the following page (*GMAC-01-0072*), GMACM's notes reflect Mr. Stephenson's Declaration
14 that a "trial" loan modification was then being proposed. That note reads as follows:

15 Proposed Solution: GMAC Mortgage proposes a **3 month trial**
16 **modification** consisting of a down payment of \$1600 and a monthly
17 contribution of \$1600. Upon successful completion of the trial the
18 estimated mod terms will be: Mod Type; Cap: Interest Rate Type:
19 ARM to ARM; Interest Rate: 3.25; Index Rate 3.9; Margin: -0.65;
20 Arm Freeze: 5 year Freeze; NPV \$10,737.80. (Emphasis added)

21 31. According to Mr. Stephenson, the loan modification plan that he proposed would
22 included a three-month trial payment period during which time GMACM would decide whether to
23 make the modification permanent. It would also afford GMACM an opportunity to see if the
24 borrowers could meet the agreed upon monthly payment. *Id. at ¶ ¶ 4-6.* As he confirms, because
25 this was *not* a Repayment Agreement (Plan), there was no scheduled balloon payment. And because
26 this was not part of a Repayment Agreement, no new written Foreclosure Repayment Agreement was
27 ever sent to Ms. Longoni. *Id. at ¶ 6.* Mr. Stephenson further confirmed that he never indicated to
28 Ms. Longoni that they would be required to make any type of a balloon payment, thus they were
never in breach of any such obligation. *Id. at ¶ 10. See, also, Longoni affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 10.*

 32. GMACM's note of March 30, 2009, which confirms a debt forgiveness of
\$186,000.00 further confirms Mr. Stephenson's Declaration that his plan was *not* a Repayment Plan,

1 but rather, was the first step in a permanent loan modification plan as GMACM's internal guidelines
2 clearly state, Repayment Agreements do not entail any debt forgiveness. *Exhibit 12, bates page*
3 *GMAC-01-0073*. The proposed agreement also indicated that the interest rate would be frozen for
4 five years.¹⁰ The plan was set to commence on March 30, 2009.

5 33. The debtors' claim that the plaintiffs were in breach of the Repayment Agreement is
6 further belied by the amount of the claimed balloon payment. The debtors now claim that the
7 plaintiffs were in breach because they failed to pay the \$19,421.76 balloon payment which was
8 required as part of the Repayment Plan that Mr. Stephenson had initially proposed. However, as the
9 debtors readily admit, that plan was never signed. *See, Objection ¶10*. As Mr. Stephenson noted
10 in his Declaration, if his revised plan were a Repayment Plan with reduced payments of \$1,600.00,
11 the balloon payment would have been far in excess of the payment called for in his initially proposed
12 Repayment Agreement. *See, Exhibit 1, Stephenson Declaration, ¶ 9*.

13 34. The debtors' claim that the plaintiffs were in breach of the revised plan because they
14 failed to make timely \$1,600.00 payments is also belied by both Mr. Stephenson's Declaration and
15 GMACM's diary notes. Those notes reflect that on March 27, 2009, Longoni contacted GMACM
16 and requested a couple more days to make the first payment. *See, Exhibit 12, GMAC-01-0073*. The
17 notes reflect that Mr. Stephenson granted Longoni an extension until April 3, 2009, and Longoni
18 made her payment within that time. Subsequent notes (and Mr. Stephenson's Declaration) prove that
19 any delay in receipt of those payments was fully authorized by Mr. Stephenson (and GMACM).

20 35. From this point forward, the communications between Stephenson and Longoni are
21 confirmed by email communications. These actual email communications are attached hereto in
22 *Exhibit 16*. For the ease of this Court, the critical communications have been placed into a table
23 which appears on the first page of the exhibit. The communications between Longoni and
24 Stephenson begin on April 2, 2009, after Longoni had made the claimants first \$1,600.00 payment.
25 She described the process she went through to make the payment. She then asked Mr. Stephenson
26 when her next payment was due. He told her it was due on April 30, 2009. He followed that with

27 ¹⁰ As this Court likely noticed, according to GMACM's own Servicer Guide, Repayment
28 Plans were for a maximum of 18 months. *See, Exhibit 14*.

1 the following remark:

2 All that I am awaiting on in order to make this a permanent change
3 (next 5 yrs) is approval from the Vice President of the Bank. I should
know the outcome in the next month (ish).

4 On April 28, 2009, Mr. Stephenson further stated:

5 “ I just took a look at the notes on your loan and it looks as if one
6 manager looked at it and agreed that it was a win win situation, but
because it is \$186K that we are trying to write off, it has to go a little
7 higher.”

8 36. On May 1, 2009, Longoni attempted to make her second payment to GMACM. *See,*
9 *Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 17.* She had made the first payment via an on-line payment system,
10 however, she was unable to do so when she tried to make the second payment. She also attempted
11 to make the payment by directly contacting a phone representative, however, that request was
12 refused. Because of these difficulties, Ms. Longoni again contacted Mr. Stephenson who explained
13 to her that someone had put a “Certified Funds Flag” on her account which meant that all payments
14 had to be certified. He told her that he had removed that flag. Four days later on May 5, 2009, Mr.
Stephenson sent the following message to Ms. Longoni:

15 According to what I see we rcv'd \$1600 yesterday. You're good to
16 go!!! It doesn't look like our VP has had a chance to look at this yet.
17 (We are swamped!!!!!!!!!!) The notes that I saw are good though
(indicating that it makes sense to do the Modification). **We still have**
18 **2 months before I would have to set up a plan. So everything is**
still sort of on hold. (Emphasis added)

19 37. According to PMK Aguirre, GMACM started to implement the HAMP program in
20 May of 2009. *See, Aguirre Depo, p. 165, Exhibit 7.* GMACM's Log Notes of May 22, 2009,
21 confirms this testimony through the following notation “Home Affordable Modification program
22 sent to borrower.” *Exhibit 12, GMAC-01-0076.* By May 26, 2009, the claimants had still received
23 no documentation from GMACM regarding the modification. Therefore, Longoni sent a follow up
24 email asking if they should continue to make the \$1,600 payment. *See, Exhibit 16.* Mr. Stephenson
25 sent a response advising “yes,” and he added that he expected an update soon and once a decision
26 was made then “paperwork will be sent out with the new terms.” And, while it is true that Mr.
27 Stephenson indicated that he was going to be moving to a new team *the following week*, he never
28 indicated that he would have no authority to speak on behalf of GMACM. In accordance with Mr.

1 Stephenson's instructions, Longoni made their third payment on June 1, 2009. Still she heard
2 nothing. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 18.*

3 38. The debtors now claim that the plaintiffs breached the Repayment Agreement when
4 they failed to make the required balloon payment which would have been due on June 30, 2009.
5 They further claim that the foreclosure process was only restarted *after* the claimants failed to pay
6 the balloon payment. However, GMACM's notes prove otherwise. In this regard, a note dated
7 March 30, 2009 (bates page GMAC-01-0073), reflects the entry "Promise Broken 03/30/09," and
8 it is followed by a note dated 4/10/09 which states "Foreclosure Started." (Bates p. GMAC-01-0074).
9 A note of 4/30/09 also states "Promise Broken 04/30/09" and is followed by a note of 5/8/09 stating
10 "Foreclosure Started." Finally, a note dated 6/1/09 once again states "Promise Broken" and is
11 followed by a note dated 6/12/09 which states "Foreclosure Started." GMACM's notes clearly
12 disprove the debtors' current claim that the foreclosure occurred only because of the plaintiffs'
13 failure to pay a balloon payment. Accepting as true GMACM's log notes, the plaintiffs were in
14 breach from the very moment they didn't make the first \$2,270.00 payment. Nevertheless, GMACM
15 continued to accept their \$1,600.00 payments, telling them they were "good to go."

16 39. The debtor's current argument that foreclosure was restarted after the failure to make
17 the June 30, 2009 balloon payment is further belied by a log note dated July 2, 2009, from LHUCK
18 (Landon Huck) which states the following: "CALLED HOME LEFT MESSAGE. WILL NEED
19 NEW HMP IN ORDER TO REVIEW FOR MOD. PLS HAVE BWR FAX TO 866-709-4744."
20 *Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0077.* If GMACM had declared the plaintiffs in breach of their
21 Repayment Plan, (and had decided to pursue foreclosure) why was Mr. Huck asking them to submit
22 a HAMP work-up? The following note confirms his request to mail out such a package. *Id.*

23 40. During the later part of June, Longoni had made several attempts to speak to a new
24 Loan Specialist, however, she could never contact anyone who knew the status of their request.
25 Therefore, she again reached out to Mr. Stephenson. The following email exchange occurred.

26 27 28	6/29/09	Pam to Nate	Nate, I can't seem to get a hold of anyone who knows anything about the modification you were working on. Homecomings sent me information indicating that my payment was as it was before, and the balance was the same. Please help!!!!
----------------	---------	-------------	--

1	6/30/09	Nate to Pam	Hi Pam, I e-mailed my old dept yesterday and they responded that the file has been sent for final management approval. The person handling the file is Landon Huck. I hope that this helps you. Good luck.
2	6/30/09	Pam to Nate	Hi Nate, do you have any contact information for Landon? Thank you for still helping us. Hope you are having a nice summer. Pam
3	6/30/09	Nate to Pam	Hi Pam, I am sorry I am not able to give you the contact info. I did, however, rcv an e-mail stating that the MOD had been approved yesterday, but that is all I know. You may want to call in and see if you can get some more details. Thanks, Nate
4	6/30/09	Pam to Nate	Nate, when I call the regular Homecomings 800 number, no one knows any information. Do you have a suggestion as to what department I could start with? So it was approved? Does that mean the \$1600 payment and the principal reduction? Wow!
5	6/30/09	Nate to Pam	You might be able to try 1 800 799 9250
6	6/30/09	Pam to Nate	So "approved" means \$1600 a month and the principal reduction?
7	6/30/09	Nate to Pam	That is the way that I had it set up, however, I am not sure if that was how it was approved or not. Thanks, Nate

41. The debtors now argue that these statements are too vague to support either a modification of the plaintiffs' existing loan, a new contract, or even promissory estoppel as this email does not prove that the approval Stephenson described related to the plan that he had originally proposed. This disingenuous argument, however, is once again disproven by GMACM's own employees. In this regard, PMK Aguirre fully acknowledged that there was only one loan modification plan that was ever proposed by Mr. Stephenson, and that was the one which Stephenson had described to Longoni, namely \$1600 payments, with a \$186,000.00 write down. *See, Aguirre Deposition pp. 264-266, attached Exhibit 7. See also, Exhibit 12, (GMAC-01-0072)*

42. Beginning on July 1, 2009, Longoni attempted to make her next payment of \$1,600.00, however, the system would not accept that payment. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 21.* On July 9, she was finally able to make contact with a representative of GMACM. The individual she spoke with was named Henry. *Id.* During that call, she asked Henry about the status of her loan modification as she had been told on June 30, 2009, that it had, in fact, been approved. Much to her shock and amazement, Henry told her that it was *not* approved, that she owed

1 approximately \$19,000.00 and that if she did not pay it, they would sell their home. She attempted
2 to make the next payment of \$1,600.00, however, he refused to accept it. He told her that it was only
3 set up for three months. As both Ms. Longoni and Mr. Stephenson acknowledged, no one had ever
4 told the plaintiffs that the payment plan was only for three months, or that there was a balloon.

5 43. Moreover, even though Henry told Ms. Longoni that she needed to pay \$19,000.00
6 (or her home would be sold), Henry nevertheless advised her to submit a new workout package as
7 per the Obama Modification plan. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 21.* He told her that they had
8 60 days to continue to pursue a loan modification through this new federal program. Critically, he
9 specifically told Ms. Longoni that the foreclosure would be on hold through this process. *Id.* Thus,
10 according to Longoni, she believed that under the worst case scenario, they had until at least until
11 September 9, 2009, to qualify for the new federal modification program. Ms. Longoni's claim is
12 fully confirmed in GMACM's log note of July 9, 2009, which reads as follows:

13 TTB1 [talked to borrower] VAI [verified account information] CIBC
14 WANTED TO INQ MOD THAT WAS APPROVED RECENTLY.
15 ADV NT TRUE. ADV PREV REPAY PLAN IS COMPLETED.
16 ADV TO RETURN WOUT PCK ASAP, TAT IS 60 DAYS, NO
GUARANTEED. I TRIED TO UPDATE DTI CALC BUT B DID
NT KNOW HER GROSS INCOME. SD SHE WOULD CB TOMO
SHE HAD TO GO TO WORK.

17 * * *

18 PAYCUT START: 9/2008 ONGOING. M/I; 1800 A MONTH.
ADV F/C SALE DT ON HOLD, L/C AND C/R CONT. HCASAS.

19 *See, Exhibit 12, bates page GMAC-01-0078 (emphasis added).*¹¹ This note fully confirms Longoni's
20 claim that Henry also told her that the foreclosure was only hold. Henry's representations were
21 further confirmed by Mr. Stephenson in an email which read as follows:

22 Pam, It looks like they are trying to put you onto an Obama Modification. **Your**
23 **Foreclosure is on Hold. GMAC does not want to take your house.** When we last
24 talked I said that from the information that I could gather from my old dept. this was
25 waiting to be approved by management. I am not sure what happened with that, but
when I had originally set you up it was a traditional GMAC Mod. We are now trying
to put everyone into the Obama plan.

26 See, Exhibit 16.

27
28 ¹¹ GMACM's PMK, Aguirre confirmed that this was a note written by Henry Casas. *See, Aguirre Deposition, Exhibit 7, pp. 247-248.*

1 44. There is absolutely no evidence that anyone from GMACM or ETS ever told the
2 plaintiffs that foreclosure efforts were not on hold. The debtors' current claim that the plaintiffs
3 should not have relied upon these representations is truly offensive. This irrefutable evidence proves
4 that GMACM had, in fact, approved the permanent loan modification which had been proposed by
5 Mr. Stephenson, however, subsequent to that time GMACM decided to try and place the plaintiffs
6 into a HAMP modification. GMACM's actions to continue to have the claimants *requalified* for the
7 HAMP program are confirmed through another entry in GMACM's diary. In a note dated July 13,
8 2009, yet another GMACM representative telephoned Longoni and left a message saying that they
9 needed a completed Obama package back to review the account for a possible loan modification.
10 *See, Exhibit 12, GMAC-01-0079.* At the same time that GMACM was telling Longoni to continue
11 efforts to qualify for the HAMP program, GMACM sent the plaintiffs an automated letter dated July
12 17, 2009, which stated that, "[T]he repayment plan we previously established at your request has
13 been cancelled for one or more of the following reasons:"

14 [[x]] The payment was not received by the payment date *as specified*
15 *in the signed repayment agreement.* (Emphasis added)

16 *See, attached Exhibit 24.* It is wholly undisputed that there never was a signed repayment plan and
17 thus it is obvious that there was a huge disconnect between GMACM's employees.

18 45. Despite the debtors' current claim that GMACM made the decision on July 15, 2009,
19 to complete the previously started foreclosure (because the plaintiffs breached the repayment plan
20 and their non-responsiveness to the company's outreach efforts,¹² *see, Objection ¶ 15*), GMACM
21 continued to mislead the claimants into believing that a permanent loan modification was available.
22 On July 29, 2009, GMACM directed the sending of a letter with yet another Financial Analysis
23 Form. *See, Exhibit 12, GMAC-01-0081.* GMACM's log note of that day contains the following
24 entry: "obama workout package provided in today 30 days to sale (no contact) letter." The letter
25 referenced in this log entry (which is dated July 30, 2009) is attached hereto as 17. As the Court will

26 ¹² Again, the debtors have not offered this Court an affidavit from any witness who states
27 that the foreclosure was restarted for these reasons. In fact, the debtors have never shown this
28 Court that the recommencement was the result of anything other than an automated action of
their computer system.

1 note, that letter specifically contained a note which reiterates the “30 days to sale” notation that was
2 referenced in the GMACM log notes. The plaintiffs were not given 30 days.

3 46. Having heard nothing further from GMACM, on August 3, 2009, Longoni sent
4 another email to Nate Stephenson explaining how she was getting no assistance from GMAC and
5 that she had gotten some notice in her mail from some place called ETS saying that her house was
6 going to be sold at auction on the 18th.¹³ Again, Mr. Stephenson responded telling her that she
7 needed to send the workout back to GMACM. The following day (August 4, 2009) Longoni
8 received a package from Fed Ex Express. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 27.*¹⁴ Longoni
9 returned the package on August 10, 2009.¹⁵ *See, Exhibits 9, ¶¶ 27-28, and Exhibit 19.*

10 47. Not knowing that her home had been sold on August 14, 2009, on August 24, 2009,
11 Longoni telephoned GMACM to inquire about the status of her newly-submitted loan modification
12 request. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 29.* She advised the representative that she had received
13 an email from Nate Stephenson on July 9, 2009, stating that the foreclosure was on hold and that she
14 believed GMACM was trying to get them qualified under HAMP program. The representative told
15 her that her home had been sold at foreclosure on August 14, 2009. Longoni told her that she wanted
16 her home back, but was told that she would need to speak with the representative’s supervisor who
17 was gone for the day. *Id.* Again, GMACM’s log notes fully confirm Longoni’s testimony. *See,*
18 *Exhibit 12, bates pages GMAC-01-0086-87.* This diary note is critical for several reasons. First it
19 shows that Longoni did not know her home had been sold at foreclosure. It also shows that Longoni
20 specifically referenced the **July 9, 2009** email that she undisputedly received from Mr. Stephenson.

21 48. At two points in their instant Objection, the debtors quite recklessly claim that
22

23 ¹³ According to Longoni, she believed this was junk mail that had been sent in error as
24 she had received notice that their request for a permanent modification had been approved.

25 ¹⁴ Attached *Exhibit 18* is a confirmation from Fed Ex showing that this package was
received by Ms. Longoni on August 4, 2009.

26 ¹⁵ In their Objection, the debtor’s counsel declares to this Court that GMACM’s records
27 do not reflect receipt of this package. Obviously, GMACM’s counsel would not have personal
28 knowledge of this fact. She also states that Longoni never referenced having returned this
package, however, Longoni’s August 24, 2009 email clearly reflects the fact that she “promptly
returned” the workout package to GMAC.

1 Longoni fraudulently fabricated an email which purported to prove that on August 3, 2009,
2 Stephenson had sent her an email which purportedly stated, "Don't worry your foreclosure is on
3 hold." *See, Objection paragraph 28 (wherein the debtor's counsel actually quotes the alleged*
4 *fraudulent representations, as well as paragraph 65).* To support this allegation, the debtors'
5 counsel attached (as Exhibit 38) the email which she claims came from Pamela Longoni on August
6 3, 2009. However, a review of this purported email clearly reveals that GMACM's representations
7 are false. The only reference to an email is one dated August 24, 2009, which is a *forwarded* email
8 (See, FW in Subject line) of Longoni's previous August 3, 2009 email to Nate Stephenson. This
9 email most certainly does not contain the phrase quoted by GMACM's counsel (i.e., Don't worry
10 your foreclosure is on hold"). Longoni did not "materially alter evidence," "forge a key document"
11 or "falsify an August 3, 2009 email with Nate Stephenson." Longoni did nothing more than *forward*
12 her exact email communications with Nate Stephenson between July 9, 2009 and August 3, 2009.

13 49. Although GMACM's Exhibit 38 does not prove any misrepresentation by Longoni,
14 it does provide great evidence of GMACM's acknowledgment of fault in this matter. Further on
15 down this email chain, the Court will see an August 26, 2009 email that GMACM employee Logan
16 Gill sent to Benjamin Willis. In that email, Mr. Gill stated the following:

17 Hopefully you can help me out with this. Basically the long and
18 skinny is that Nate told this lady the foreclosure was on hold when it
19 is not and it went to 3rd party sale. He now knows not to email
20 borrowers/3rd parties and will definitely be held responsible for his
21 actions, but would this fall under the mod teams cost center as far as
the rescind process is concerned? I am willing to do the leg work on
it if I need to but I just need to figure out where this would fall.
Thanks in advance for all your help.

22 50. The Claimants' account of the facts in this case are entirely confirmed by Mr.
23 Stephenson's sworn affidavit and declaration. *See, Exhibit 1.* Moreover, GMACM's conduct after
24 the August 14, 2009 foreclosure further proves the error which is reflected in Mr. Gill's email quoted
25 above. As set forth in Ms. Longoni's attached Affidavit, on September 9, 2009, she received an
26 unsolicited telephone call from GMACM's counsel Michael Knapp, Esq., who told her in no
27 uncertain terms that GMACM made a terrible mistake. He told her that they were attempting to
28 recover her home and that she would not have to move out. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 35,*

1 *and Exhibit 25, a copy of her Verizon telephone bill reflecting the 8 minute call.* Although the
2 debtors initially denied admitting the error or taking actions to recover the plaintiffs' home from the
3 new purchaser, both Messrs. Aguirre and Ravelo testified that they were fully aware that such actions
4 had been undertaken. *See, Aguirre deposition, pp. 255-56, Exhibit 7, and Ravelo deposition, pp.*
5 *127-129, Exhibit 8.* Moreover, during the course of discovery, the plaintiffs recovered a proposed
6 Settlement Agreement pursuant to which GMACM sought to buy back the plaintiffs' home. *See,*
7 *attached Exhibit 20.*¹⁶ After the sale, GMACM also undertook took steps to completely remove from
8 the claimants' credit records all negative references, both as to any default in their loan as well as
9 the foreclosure. Attached hereto as *Exhibit 21* are letters and emails sent by GMACM's counsel
10 relative to this process. *See, also, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 37.*

11 51. Based upon the foregoing, several things are irrefutable. First, the claimants never
12 defaulted upon any Repayment Plan by failing to make a balloon payment. The proposed Repayment
13 Plan was abandoned in March of 2009, in favor of a Loan Modification. Second, the claimants made
14 each of the \$1,600 payments called for under the "Trial" modification plan and as of June 29, 2009,
15 GMACM approved their request for a permanent loan modification. Third, On June 30, 2009, Mr.
16 Stephenson communicated that approval to the plaintiffs *in writing*. Fourth, after June 29, 2009,
17 GMACM decided to change the claimants' loan modification plan from the Traditional plan to a
18 HAMP modification. Fifth, during this process, Nate Stephenson and Henry Casas both informed
19 Ms. Longoni that all foreclosure efforts were on hold and the claimants were never told otherwise.¹⁷
20 And finally, GMACM fully admitted their errors after the August 14, 2009 sale.

21 **V. The Claimants' Breach of Contract and Fraud and Misrepresentation Claims**
22 **are Valid.**

24 ¹⁶ Apparently, the purchaser wanted more than the \$4,000.00 that GMACM was willing
25 to pay for the return of the home.

26 ¹⁷ While Longoni acknowledged in her August 3, 2009 email to Stephenson that she had
27 received some notice from "ETS" that her home was going to be sold on August 19, 2009, she
28 believed that such notice had to be in error as GMACM had told her that her modification was
approved and they were still working to get them approved for a HAMP modification. *See,*
Longoni Affidavit, ¶ 29. It is also undisputed that the formal Notice of Trustee's Sale came back
to ETS as undelivered. *See, attached Exhibit 22.*

1 52. The debtors made the very same challenge to the plaintiffs' Fraud and
2 Misrepresentation claims before the Nevada District Court, however, that court expressly found that
3 the claims stated valid claims for relief. *See, Longoni v. GMAC Mortg., 2010 WL 5186091, at *4.*
4 The debtors now seek to reargue the law of the case, claiming that the only false statement of fact
5 that the claimants can remotely point to is Mr. Stephenson's June 30, 2009 statement that he had
6 received an email stating that their modification had been approved the prior day (which the debtors
7 claim he corrected that same day). *See, Objection, ¶ 45.* This is simply untrue. After Mr.
8 Stephenson told Longoni that the request for a permanent modification had been approved, he did
9 not tell her that modification was not approved, all he did was tell her that he was not certain of the
10 exact terms of the modification. He did say that was how he had it set up. Thus, Mr. Stephenson's
11 subsequent statement was not a retraction of his previous statement. The moment that Mr.
12 Stephenson advised Ms. Longoni that their loan modification had been approved, an enforceable
13 agreement was created. The plaintiffs sought a modification, made payments toward that
14 application, and they were told it was approved.¹⁸

15 53. GMACM now seeks to deny the existence of this agreement by claiming that nine
16 days after Mr. Stephenson told Longoni that their request for a permanent loan modification had
17 been approved, Henry Casas told Ms. Longoni that there was no such approval. The argument is
18 fatally flawed. Mr. Casas' statements to Ms. Longoni on July 9, 2009, did not vitiate the agreement,
19 he simply repudiated the agreement which has been fully confirmed by Mr. Stephenson. This Court
20 should take very special note of the fact that the debtors have not offered this Court any admissible
21 evidence that GMACM did not, in fact, approve the plaintiffs' initial loan modification request.¹⁹

22 54. Additionally, GMACM's representation that the claimants are asserting only one false
23 promise as the basis for their fraud claim is also quite erroneous. As was aptly noted by the Nevada
24

25 ¹⁸ As will be addressed below, contrary to the debtors' current arguments, that agreement
26 was not in violation of the statute of frauds as it is clearly proven through writings, including Mr.
Stephenson's June 30, 2009 email communication and GMACM's own diary notes.

27 ¹⁹ The debtors claim they could not find the email Mr. Stephenson referred to in his
28 email of June 30, 2009, however, their PMK admitted that they never even looked for it.
See, Aguirre deposition, pp. 170-171, 176-177.

1 federal district court (when it denied the debtors' first motion to dismiss), the plaintiffs' fraud claim
2 was based upon **two** alleged false representations. The first related to the promise that the loan
3 modification had been approved. The second false promise was that the foreclosure was on hold.
4 As the Nevada Court properly concluded, the plaintiffs relied upon these statements in making the
5 \$1,600.00 payments *and* by making no preparations to leave their home, thereby incurring additional
6 moving costs and rental expenses. Moreover, as is set forth in Longoni's attached Affidavit, had she
7 known that the promises of a stayed foreclosure were false, she would have pursued other means by
8 which to bring the home out of foreclosure. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9, ¶ 43.* She quite
9 reasonably relied upon the representations of both Messrs Stephenson and Casas. As such, the fraud
10 and misrepresentations claims are clearly valid.

11 **VI. The Plaintiffs' Negligent Misrepresentation Claims Are Entirely Valid.**

12 55. Debtors claim that the Plaintiffs' fourth claim for relief entitled "Negligence and
13 Negligent Misrepresentation" fails to state a viable claim because the debtors owed the plaintiffs no
14 duty of due care. However, the specific roles of the parties within this action illustrate both a duty,
15 and a myriad of viable negligence claims. As the debtors argue, a lender generally owes no duty of
16 care to its borrower. However, "this is only true in a lender's conventional role as a mere lender of
17 money. It does not indicate that lenders (or others such as ETS who had no lender-borrower
18 relationship with the plaintiffs) have no duty of care in foreclosure proceedings." *Weingartner v.*
19 *Chase Home Finance, LLC*, 702 F. Supp. 2d 1276, 1290 (D.Nev 2010). The duty of care applicable
20 to foreclosures is, at a minimum, defined by Nevada's foreclosure statutes. "These statutes set the
21 floor of the duty of care for a foreclosing entity." *Weingartner, Id.* at 1291.

22 56. The standards of negligence *per se* are well established at Nevada law. "A violation
23 of statute establishes the duty and breach element of negligence only if the injured party belongs to
24 the *class* of persons that the statute was intended to protect, and the injury is of the *type* against
25 which the statute was intended to protect." *Anderson v. Baltrusaitis*, 113 Nev. 963, 965, 944 P.2d
26 797, 799 (1997) The amended complaint reflects violations of various sections of the foreclosure
27 code, NRS 107.080, *et seq.*, which establish negligence *per se* type claims. (*See*, #32, ¶¶ 27-34;
28 ¶¶64-66.) This alleged violation of statutory duties in and of itself is sufficient to state a negligence

1 claim. *Weingartner*, 702 F.Supp. at 1290.

2 57. Moreover, claims for negligent foreclosure have been allowed to proceed to trial
3 before a jury. *See, Gunsul v. Countywide Home Loans, Inc.*, 2006 WL 3586091, **2-6 (Wash.App.)
4 (negligent foreclosure claim allowed to proceed due to material issue of fact as to whether a lender
5 failed to timely provide exact pay off information required to stop foreclosure); *Lenett v. World Sav.*
6 *Bank*, FSB, 2008 WL 2009757, *2 (Cal. App. 2d) (case submitted to trial against lender on claim
7 of negligent foreclosure). On a related note, “wrongful foreclosure” clearly involves an element of
8 negligence, and probable negligence per se when statutory violations are involved. This cause of
9 action is recognized under Nevada law. “An action for the tort of wrongful foreclosure will lie if
10 the trustor or mortgagor can establish that at the time the power of sale was exercised or the
11 foreclosure occurred, no breach of condition or failure of performance existed on the mortgagor’s
12 or trustor’s part which would have authorized the foreclosure or exercise of the power of sale.”
13 *Collins v. Union Federal Sav. & Loan Ass’n*, 99 Nev. 284, 304, 662 P.2d 610, 623 (1983).

14 **A. Negligent misrepresentation is also properly stated.**

15 58. Negligent misrepresentation in Nevada is defined as follows:

16 One who, in the course of his business, profession, or employment,
17 or in any other action in which he or she has a pecuniary interest,
18 supplies false information for the guidance of others in their business
19 transactions, is subject to liability for pecuniary loss caused to them
by their justifiable reliance upon the information, if he or she fails to
exercise reasonable care or competence in obtaining or
communicating the information.

20 *Barmettler v. Reno Air, Inc.*, 114 Nev. 441, 449, 956 P.2d. 1382, 1387 (1998), *quoting* Rest. 2d of
21 Torts, § 552(1)(1976). Elements toward satisfying these requirements of negligent misrepresentation
22 may be found within the Third Amended Complaint. Very similar factual circumstances to those
23 alleged herein have been found to state viable causes of action for negligent misrepresentation. For
24 example, in *Ghervescu v. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Co.*, 2008 WL 660248 (Cal. App. 4th)
25 (unpublished), a property owner was given misinformation about a notice of default. He was in the
26 process of applying for a forbearance agreement, and was never told that the application had been
27 denied. He was further told that he would have ample time to “make arrangements” to cure any
28 default and reinstate the loan since any trustee sale could not be held earlier than a certain fixed date.

1 *Id.*, **1-2. Instead, and approximately five weeks prior to that fixed date, the property owner, when
2 following up regarding his pending application, was told that the Trustee Sale had already been held.
3 *Id.*, *2. The California court applied a negligent misrepresentation standard all but identical with
4 Nevada's. *Id.*, *3. With an eye toward these allegations, that court allowed the plaintiff's negligent
5 misrepresentation claim to proceed for the lower court's consideration. *Id.*, *6. *See also, of similar*
6 *effect, Fidelity Mortgage Trustee Service, Inc. v. Ridgeway East Homeowners Assoc.*, 27 Cal. App.
7 4th 503, 506, 32 Cal. Rptr. 2d. 521, 523 (1994) (claim as to whether mortgage trustee had negligently
8 misrepresented that foreclosure proceedings would be delayed allowed to proceed to the jury). Based
9 upon the foregoing, the plaintiffs have clearly stated a viable claim for negligent misrepresentation.
10 The evidence unequivocally demonstrates that the debtors made false statements of fact which were
11 quite reasonably relied upon by the claimants to their great detriment. Thus, the claims are valid.

12 **B. Even assuming a "no duty" rule applicable to lenders, an exception to**
13 **such "no duty" rule is stated by the complaint's averment.**

14 59. Moreover, based on the same misrepresentations, and purported efforts towards loan
15 modification reflected within the Third Amended Complaint, said averments fall within an exception
16 to any purported "no duty" rule. For example, within *Wiseman v. Hallham*, 113 Nev. 1266, 1270,
17 945 P.2d. 945, 947-48 (1997) the Nevada Supreme Court adopted the Restatement (Second) of Torts
18 § 323 (1965), which appears equally applicable here. That section provides:

19 One who undertakes, gratuitously or for consideration, to render
20 services to another which he should recognize as necessary for the
21 protection of the other persons or things, is subject to liability to the
22 other for physical harm resulting from his failure to exercise
reasonable care to perform his undertaking, if: (a) the failure to
exercise such care increases the risk of such harm; or (b) the harm is
suffered because of the other's reliance upon the undertaking.

23 60. Here, once GMACM undertook efforts at loan modification GMACM fell within the
24 parameters of the above-referenced exception to the "no duty" rule. Although they may have had
25 no legal obligation to engage in loan modification discussions with the plaintiffs, once they did so,
26 they needed to act in a non-negligent fashion. Telling the plaintiffs their application for a loan
27 modification had been approved, or even just telling them the foreclosure was on hold when it was
28 not (as was admitted by Mr. Gill), GMACM assumed a legal duty and then breached it.

1 **C. A claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress is also stated.**

2 61. To state a claim for NIED within the wrongful foreclosure context, the plaintiffs
3 “must establish, at the very least, the traditional elements of negligence, and allege verifiable
4 physical manifestations of emotional distress.” *Simon v. B of A*, 2010 WL 2609436, *12 (D.Nev.),
5 citing, *Betsinger v. D.R. Horton, Inc.*, 126 Nev. 17, 232 P.3d 433 (2010). The plaintiffs have pled
6 all such elements, and as is set forth below, they have shown the requisite physical manifestations
7 necessary for an award of damages under a negligent infliction of emotional distress claim. *See also*,
8 *Betsinger v. D.R. Horton, Inc.*, 232 P.3d at 436 (putative mortgagor’s jury award against mortgagee
9 reversed, since putative mortgagor had failed to present any evidence that he had suffered physical
10 manifestation of emotional distress).²⁰ Furthermore, plaintiffs have averred a legally sufficient claim
11 that the underlying foreclosure was wrongful, which also establishes a properly pled claim. *See, e.g.*,
12 *Sattari v. Wash. Mut.*, 2010 WL 3896146, *4 (D. Nev.)(summary judgment on NIED claim granted
13 where defendant acted improperly in foreclosure process).

14 **VII. The Claimants’ Breach of Contract and Promissory Estoppel Claims are entirely**
15 **valid.**

16 62. As the debtors have properly noted, to prove the breach of contract claim they need
17 only show the existence of a valid agreement or contract between the parties, a breach of contractual
18 terms by the defendant, and damages. *Tene v. BAC Home Loan Servicing, LP*, 2012 WL 222920,
19 *2 (D. Nev. Jan. 25, 2012). In this case, the evidence set forth above clearly proves there was an
20 agreement to modify the claimants’ mortgage loan. The plaintiffs were told to make payments as
21 part of their application for a loan modification, they were told what the new terms would be if
22 approved, and after they made the required payments they were told their request was approved. A
23 contract was formed at that point. The debtors erroneously claim that this agreement is
24 unenforceable under Nevada’s applicable statute of frauds, namely NRS §111.220(1) since it would

25 ²⁰ The mere allegations reflected within the complaint, wherein the plaintiffs’ home was
26 wrongfully sold from underneath their feet, constitutes extreme and outrageous behavior.
27 Notably the *Betsinger* case made no contention that “extreme and outrageous” behavior was not
28 shown within context of the failed real estate transaction. It reflects that the Nevada Supreme
Court will recognize emotional distress claims within the mortgagor/mortgagee context, and this
federal court, as one sitting in diversity jurisdiction, must apply the substantive law of the forum
state in which it resides. *Adelson v. Hananel*, 2009 WL 2835119, *3 (D. Nev.).

1 be an agreement which by its terms cannot be performed within one year from its execution. Again,
2 these arguments are erroneous. As set forth in *Pinnacle Fitness and Recreation Management v.*
3 *Jerry and Vickie Moyes Family Trust*, 2013 WL 1932888, the contract could be fully performed in
4 one year. The claimants could have immediately sold the home to another or refinanced the loan
5 through another lender. Thus, the statute of frauds does not even apply.

6 63. Secondly, the debtors have erroneously argued that the agreement itself had to be in
7 writing and signed by the party to be charged. However, this is incorrect. Writings which satisfy
8 the statute of frauds do not necessarily equate with common notions of what does, or does not,
9 constitute a contract or written agreement. First, NRS 11.220 itself references merely “notes or
10 memorandums” of the agreement being in writing. The exchange of a series of email correspondence
11 between GMACM and Longoni satisfies all elements of contract formation and all essential elements
12 of the contract. The emails reflect terms, dates sent, identity of the drafters, and signatures. Under
13 Nevada law, this exchange of electronic communications is sufficient for contract formation. *See*,
14 NRS 719.240(3)(“If a law requires a record to be in writing, an electronic record satisfies the law.”);
15 NRS 719.100 (“‘Electronic signature’ means an electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or
16 logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the
17 record.”) This concept is not unique to Nevada. *See, Bronner v. Park Place Entm’t Corp.*, 137 F.
18 Supp. 2d 306, 312 (S.D.N.Y.2001)(a series of correspondence and memoranda may constitute an
19 agreement that satisfies the Statute of Frauds); *Gordon v. Beck & Gregg Hardware Co.*, 40 S.E.2d
20 428, 432 (Ga. App. 1946)(statute of frauds may be satisfied by series of writings internally connected
21 and intelligible without parol aid and showing an agreement coextensive with the stipulations of the
22 alleged contract). *See, also, Pinnacle Fitness and Recreation Management v. Jerry and Vickie*
23 *Moyes Family Trust*, 2013 WL 1932888 * 4 (email exchange between parties sufficient to establish
24 an enforceable agreement).

25 64. To whatever extent the former mortgage requires that modification be in writing,
26 these subsequent exchanges also comply with the terms of the initial mortgage. *See, T & Beer, Inc.,*
27 *v. Wine Source Selections, LLC* 2012 WL 360286, *3 (N.J.Super. A.D. (Unpublished opinion))(series
28 of e-mails satisfied requirement that modification of terms of agreement must be in wringing and

signed by the parties). More importantly, GMACM's own agent admits the agreement existed. Thus, the issue is entirely moot.

A. The claimants' Promissory Estoppel Claim is also fully established by the record in this matter.

65. Even if this court feels that the writing requirement is not met, promissory estoppel renders the promises made by GMACM fully enforceable. As the debtors have fully acknowledged, promissory estoppel may serve as an exception to the statute of frauds in very particular circumstances. *Nieto v. Litton Loan Servicing, LP*, 2011 WL 797496, * 3 (D. Nev. Feb. 23, 2011). Nevada follows the doctrine of promissory estoppel articulated in the Restatement (Second) of Contracts §90 which provides as follows:

A promise which the promisor should reasonably expect to induce action or forbearance on the part of the promisee or a third person and which does induce such action or forbearance is binding if injustice can be avoided only by enforcement of the promise. The remedy granted for breach may be limited as justice requires.

Dynalectric Co. V. Clark & Sullivan Constructors, Inc., 127 Nev. Adv. Op. No. 41, 255 P. 3d 286, 288 (2011), *quoting* Restatement (Second) of Contracts, sec. 90(1)(1981). In this case, there can be no doubt but that GMACM's employees made multiple promises to the claimants that they relied upon. From the inception Mr. Stephenson told the plaintiffs that the foreclosure was on hold. Next, Mr. Stephenson promised the claimants that GMACM had approved their loan modification request. Third, even after Mr. Casas (Henry) told Ms. Longoni that Mr. Stephenson's previous statement about approval was not correct, both he and Mr. Stephenson still told Ms. Longoni that efforts to foreclose were on hold.²¹ Moreover, these statements *are* contained in writings, both in email communications (from Mr. Stephenson) and in GMACM's own diary notes (regarding Mr. Casas).

66. The debtors' arguments that their promises were too vague and ambiguous to be enforceable is ridiculous. Mr. Stephenson's email communications, and especially his April 28,

²¹ The debtors claim that the claimants Gagnon and Lacey Longoni cannot prevail upon their claims for promissory estoppel because they had no contact with GMACM. Not surprisingly, GMACM cites no authority for this ridiculous proposition. Once GMACM made the promises to Longoni, she and Gagnon relied upon those representations. Lacey Longoni was merely a minor child who would be a third party beneficiary of those representations.

1 2009 email communications clearly identify the modified loan terms.²² Additionally, the repeated
2 promises that the foreclosure process was on hold were eminently clear. Finally, the debtors seek
3 this Court's blessing for them to ignore their promises by arguing that no injustice would be suffered
4 by not forcing the debtors to honor their word because of Longoni's fraud upon GMACM through
5 her alleged falsified emails. This issue was discussed in detail above and needs no further comment.

6
7 **VIII. Longoni's Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Claim Has Already Been**
8 **Determined to Be Valid.**

9 67. Finally, the debtors challenge Longoni's intentional infliction of emotional distress
10 claim, claiming that the conduct alleged cannot be deemed outrageous as a matter of law. Once
11 again, the Nevada District Court has already rejected this argument. *See, Longoni v. GMAC Mortg.,*
12 *2010 WL 5186091, at *6.* In this regard, the Nevada court stated as follows:

13 [t]he court finds that under the facts alleged in the complaint, namely
14 that defendants requested plaintiffs apply for a different loan
15 modification and assured plaintiffs that the foreclosure was on hold
16 during this new application process, plaintiffs have alleged extreme
17 and outrageous conduct sufficient to state a claim for intentional
18 infliction of emotional distress by the subsequent trustee's sale less
19 than a month later.

20 68. Next, the debtors allege that there is nothing in the factual record put forth by Longoni
21 indicating that she manifested any physical symptoms from the debtors' conduct. This is clearly
22 incorrect. During her deposition, and in her attached Affidavit, Longoni provided detailed accounts
23 of the effects of the debtors' action on both her and her daughter. *See, Longoni Affidavit, Exhibit 9,*
24 *paragraphs 38-42, and Excerpts of her Deposition, at Exhibit 23. See, Franchise Tax Board v. Hyatt,*
25 *130 Nev. Adv. Op. 71, 335 P.3d 125 (2014).* Based upon the foregoing, this Court should find that
26 the debtors have completely failed in their obligation to prove the invalidity of the plaintiffs' claims.
27 The facts of this case cry out for relief. The claims are valid and worth far more than \$600,000.00

28 DATED this 22nd day of May, 2015.

ERICKSON, THORPE & SWAINSTON, LTD.

By /s/ Thomas P. Beko

27 ²² The monthly payments would be \$1,600.00 per month with a principal reduction of
28 \$186,000. After five years the interest rate would increase by no more than 1% per year, never to
exceed \$13.875.

1 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 In re: Case No. 12-12020 (MG)
4 RESIDENTIAL CAPITAL, LLC, et al., Chapter 11
5 Debtors. Jointly Administered

6 **EXHIBITS TO**
7 **RESPONSE TO OBJECTION OF THE RESCAP BORROWER CLAIMS TO PROOF OF**
8 **CLAIM FILED BY PAMELA D. LONGONI AND JEAN GAGNON**
9 **CLAIM NOS. 2291, 2294, 2295 AND 2357**
10 **Exhibit Index**

- 11 1. Declaration of Nate Stephenson, May 12, 2015, and Affidavit of Nate Stephenson, May 15, 2012
12 2. Promissory Note and Deed of Trust re: 5540 Twin Creeks Drive, Reno, Nevada, dated September 29, 2005
13 3. Adjustable Rate Loan Modification Agreement
14 4. GMACM Response to Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories
15 5. Minute Order, Doc. No. 80, July 29, 2011
16 6. GMACM Amended Response to Interrogatories
17 7. Excerpts, Deposition of Juan Aguirre, September 1, 2011
18 8, 62-66, 72-73, 87, 94, 103-105, 140, 158-159, 164-165,
19 170-171, 176-177, 185-186, 188-189, 194, 247-248, 255-256
20 264-266
21 8. Excerpts, deposition of Myron Ravelo, September 8, 2011
22 21-22, 62-63, 83-85, 122-123, 127-129, 137
23 9. Affidavit of Pamela Longoni
24 10. Pre-2009 version of N.R.S. §107.085
25 11. January 15, 2009, letter from claimants to Homecomings Financial
26 12. GMACM Log Notes (Diary) GMACM automated letter to claimants, July 16, 2009
27 13. ETS Log Notes (Diary), ETS-01-00005
28 14. GMACM Servicer Guide
15. Proposed Foreclosure Repayment Agreement
16. Emails between Longoni and Stephenson

- 1 17. GMACM Letter, July 30, 2009
- 2 18. Federal Express confirmation
- 3 19. Financial Analysis Form
- 4 20. Proposed Settlement Agreement with National Real Estate Services
- 5 21. Letters and emails sent by GMACM's counsel
- 6 22. Undelivered Notice of Trustee Sale
- 7 23. Excerpts, Deposition of Pamela Longoni, November 10, 2011
- 8 24. GMACM automated letter to claimants, July 16, 2009
- 9 25. Verizon Billing Records

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28